

3001 Tinker Drive
Oceanside, New York 11572

February 12, 2000

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Food and Drug Administration
FDA Room 1-23
12420 Parklawn Drive
Rockville, MD 20845

To Whom It May Concern:

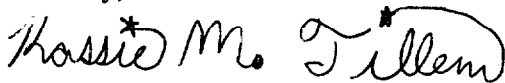
Hello my name is Kassie M. Tillem, and I am a student in a health class at Oceanside Middle School. These past few weeks we have been learning about the dangerous affects of tobacco products. I am writing to you because of cigars. Cigar packages have no warning label, and I think they should.

Cigars are products as deadly as cigarettes. The packages of cigars have no warning labels protecting people about the dangerous affects the product can have. Warnings on cigarette packages, like Marlboro, say that smoking causes lung cancer, heart disease, emphysema, and may complicate pregnancy and I think that cigars should have similar warnings.

Some people think that smoking cigars are better than smoking cigarettes because you're smoking less. But it is actually proven that one cigar is equal to smoking 20 unfiltered cigarettes. You can also think of it as chain smoker smoking an entire pack of cigarettes. But 10 million people smoke cigars. Line them all in a row and you have all dead Americans. Now what else would happen to these people, who smoke two or three cigars a day, they're actually smoking three packs of cigarettes? People who smoke cigars think they are better than smoking cigarettes, but they don't know that they have the same complications, that is why there should be warning labels. The millions of cigar-smoking Americans should be aware of the risks.

This is a very important issue. It would be so much better for cigar- smoking Americans if you put warning labels on the packages. Please consider this issue, and start putting labels on the product. Thank you very much for understanding this problem.

Sincerely,

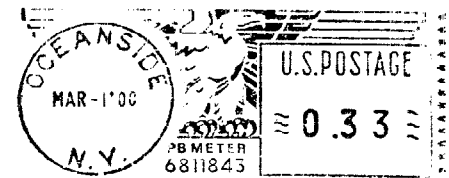
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kassie M. Tillem". There are small star-like marks above the 'i' in "Kassie" and the 'i' in "Tillem".

Kassie M. Tillem

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